

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-8 (canceled).

9. (new) A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:

a body;

a nail ejection member connected to said body;

a blade supported in said body capable of movement in opposing first and second directions and, when activated, driven in said second direction to strike a nail in said nail ejection member;

an activation switch for activating said blade when a predetermined portion of the switch is pressed;

a trigger member supported pivotably on said body; and

a safety mechanism having a first member disposed in contact with a free end portion of said trigger member and a second member positioned near said nail ejection member and connecting member between said first and second members, said safety mechanism being supported capable of movement in said first and second directions between a first position and a second position, wherein when the trigger member is pivoted, pivoting movement of said trigger member moves to press said predetermined portion of said switching mechanism and to press the

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free end portion of said trigger member in the second direction against said first member of said safety mechanism.

10. (new) A nail gun as claimed in claim 9, wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is unobstructed, said safety mechanism moves freely in the second direction from the first position to the second position.

11. (new) A nail gun as claimed in claim 9, wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is obstructed trigger member presses the predetermined portion of said activation switch so that said activation switch activates the blade.

12. (new): A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:  
a body;  
a nail ejection member connected to said body;  
a blade supported in said body capable of movement in opposing first and second directions and, when activated, driven in said second direction to strike a nail in said nail ejection member;

an activation switch for activating said blade when a predetermined portion of the switch is pressed;

a trigger member supported pivotably on said body; and

a safety mechanism having a first member disposed in contact with a free end portion of said trigger member, a second member positioned near said nail ejection member and connecting member between said first and second members, said safety mechanism including separation mechanism to separate connection between said first and second members of said safety

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méchanism when said free end portion of said trigger member moves said first member in the second direction by a predetermined amount or greater, said safety mechanism being supported capable of movement in said first and second directions between a first position and a second position, wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is unobstructed, said safety mechanism moves freely in the second direction from the first position to the second position, and wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is obstructed said trigger member presses the predetermined portion of said switch so that said activation switch activates the blade.

13. (new) A nail gun as claimed in claim 12, wherein said separation mechanism includes a cam member pivotably supported at said connecting member of said safety mechanism to engage with a recess portion formed with said second member of said safety mechanism, and wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is obstructed, pressing force of said trigger member free end acts to release the engagement of said cam with said recess.

14. (new) A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:  
a body;  
a nail ejection member connected to said body;  
a blade supported in said body capable of movement in opposing first and second directions and, when activated, driven in said second direction to strike a nail in said nail ejection member;

an activation switch for activating said blade when a predetermined portion of said switch is pressed;

a trigger member supported pivotably on said body; and

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a safety mechanism having a first member disposed in contact with a free end of said trigger member, a second member positioned near said nail ejection member and connecting member between said first and second members, said first and second members of said safety mechanism being supported in parallel with said nail pushing mechanism to move in said first and second directions, said safety mechanism being supported capable of movement in said first and second directions between a first position and a second position, wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is unobstructed, said safety mechanism moves freely in the second direction from the first position to the second position, and wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is obstructed trigger member presses the predetermined portion of said activation switch so that said activation switch activates the blade.

15. (new) A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:
  - a body;
  - a nail ejection member connected to said body;
  - a blade supported in said body capable of movement in opposing first and second directions and, when activated, driven in said second direction to strike a nail in said nail ejection member;
  - an activation switch for activating said blade when a predetermined portion of the switch is pressed;
  - a trigger member supported pivotably on said body;
  - a safety mechanism having a first member disposed in contact with a free end of the trigger member, a second member positioned near said nail ejection member and connecting

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member between said first and second members, said first and second members of said safety mechanism being supported in parallel with said blade to move in said first and second directions, said safety mechanism being supported capable of movement in said first and second directions between a first position and a second position; and

an elastic member for positioning said safety mechanism into said first position, and wherein when the trigger is pivoted, pivoting movement of said trigger moves said trigger member moves to press the predetermined portion of said switch and to press the free end portion of said trigger member in the second direction against said first member of said safety mechanism.

16. (new): A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:  
a body;  
a nail ejection member connected to said body;  
a blade supported in said body capable of movement in opposing first and second directions and, when activated, driven in said second direction to strike a nail in said nail ejection member;

an activation switch for activating said blade when a predetermined portion of the switch is pressed;

a trigger member supported pivotably on said body; and

a safety mechanism having a first member disposed in contact with a free end portion of the trigger member, a second member positioned near said nail ejection member and connecting member between said first and second members, said safety mechanism including separation

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mechanism to separate connection between said first and second members of said safety mechanism when said free end portion of said trigger member moves said first member in the second direction by a predetermined amount or greater, said safety mechanism being supported capable of movement in said first and second directions between a first position and a second position, said first and second members of said safety mechanism being supported in parallel with said nail pushing mechanism to move in said first and second directions, and wherein when the trigger is pivoted, pivoting movement of said trigger moves to press the predetermined portion of the switch and to press the free end portion of said trigger member in the second direction against said first member of said safety mechanism.

17. (new): A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:
  - a body;
  - a nail ejection member connected to said body;
  - a blade supported in said body capable of movement in opposing first and second directions and, when activated, driven in said second direction to strike a nail in said nail ejection member;
  - an activation switch for activating said blade when a predetermined portion of the switch is pressed;
  - a trigger member supported pivotably on said body;
  - a safety mechanism having a first member disposed in contact with a free end portion of said trigger member, a second member positioned near said nail ejection member and connecting member between said first and second members, said safety mechanism including separation

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mechanism to separate connection between said first and second members of said safety mechanism when said free end portion of said trigger member moves said first member in the second direction by a predetermined amount or greater, said safety mechanism being supported capable of movement in said first and second directions between a first position and a second position, said first and second members of said safety mechanism being supported in parallel with said nail pushing mechanism to move in said first and second directions; and

an elastic member for positioning said safety mechanism into said first position, wherein when the trigger is pivoted, pivoting movement of said trigger member moves to press the predetermined portion of the switch and to press the free end portion of said trigger member in the second direction against said first member of said safety mechanism, wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is unobstructed, said safety mechanism moves freely in the second direction from the first position to the second position, and wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is obstructed said trigger member presses the predetermined portion of said activation switch so that said activation switch activates the blade.

18. (new): A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:  
a body;  
a nail ejection member connected to said body;  
a blade supported in said body capable of movement in opposing first and second directions and, when activated, driven in said second direction to strike a nail in said nail ejection member;

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an activation switch for activating said blade when a predetermined portion of said switch is pressed;

a trigger member supported pivotably on said body;

a safety mechanism having a first member disposed in contact with said trigger member, a second member positioned near said nail ejection member and connecting member between said first and second members, said first and second members of said safety mechanism being supported in parallel with said blade to move in said first and second directions, wherein when the trigger is pivoted, pivoting movement of said trigger member moves to press the predetermined portion of said switch and to press a free end of the trigger member in the second direction against said first member of said safety mechanism.

19. (new): A nail gun as claimed in claim 18, wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is unobstructed, said safety mechanism moves freely in the second direction from the first position to the second position.

20. (new): A nail gun as claimed in claim 18, wherein when movement of said safety mechanism is obstructed said trigger member presses the predetermined portion of said activation switch so that said activation switch activates the blade.

21. (new): A nail gun as claimed in claim 18, which further comprises a separation mechanism to separate connection between said first and second members of said safety mechanism when said trigger member moves said first member in the second direction by a predetermined amount or greater.

22. (new): A nail gun for driving a nail into a work piece, the nail gun comprising:



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a body;

a nosepiece through which nails are ejected, the nosepiece being provided on a lower end of the body;

a magazine that disposes nails one at a time to the nosepiece;

a striking mechanism that strikes a nail disposed in the nosepiece, the striking mechanism being provided in the body at a position above the nosepiece;

a trigger switch that activates the striking mechanism, the trigger switch being provided in the body,

a push portion with an end that is movable following the nosepiece and that is normally positioned in an upper dead center, wherein operation of the trigger switch is enabled when the end of the push portion is prevented from moving downward, at least a tip of the nail disposed in the nosepiece protruding from a tip of the nosepiece and protruding farther in a tip-side direction than the push portion so that the nail tip can be easily aligned with a desired position.